

School of Engineering & Arts



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March 2014

Dear SEA Families,

Physical Fitness is in

The Robbinsdale Area School District holds a six week workout challenge among all schools and buildings in the district. The building's staff who works out the most minutes during this time period wins a district trophy. I am proud to say that the SEA school tied for first place last school year.

The new fitness challenge has started once again. Our staff has taken on the challenge. You may have seen that all of our staff wears pedometers. The building's goal is for each staff member to walk 10,000 steps a day. We are getting our exercise minutes in and would love for your family to join us.

We challenge our families to join us in exercising at least 5 times a week for 30 minutes. Your heart will become healthy and your mind will become sharper. Soon it will be summer time, which means summer wear. Let's get fit together!

Kim Hiel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Hiel".

Principal

School of Engineering and Arts

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's)

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's) will be taken by third, fourth and fifth grade students throughout the state. Please make sure you don't schedule appointments or vacation on the dates below. Thanks!

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Science</u>
3	April 16 and 17	April 24 and 25	
4	April 23 and 24	April 28 and 29	
5	April 29 and 30	April 22 and 23	April 8 and 9

These tests include multiple choice and short answer questions, and will take about 90 minutes. Results of tests will be mailed home during the summer. Please make sure your child is well rested, has had a good breakfast, and is in attendance on these important days. It is imperative that children arrive on time. If a child is even a few minutes late, they may not be able to take the test at that time.

Adventure Club

Thinking about Spring? SEA Adventure Club sure is! Adventure Club is open during Spring Break, March 24-28. We are excited to spend those days with the kids. We have fun field trips and activities planned. It is not too late to sign up. If you have questions about Adventure Club feel free to contact us at 763-504-7215.

Band and Orchestra News

Mark Your Calendars

SEA Spring Orchestra and Band Concert
Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 2:30 and 6:00 p.m.

The students have been working hard and can't wait to showcase their developing musical skills!

Performer attendance is required at both concerts, so please clear your calendar now. All family members are welcome to attend the concerts! We look forward to seeing you there!



From the Media Center

Reminder about Maud Hart Lovelace:

Every year, many elementary MN libraries will host a Maud Hart Lovelace Award event. This year, we kicked off the Maud Hart Lovelace Awards early. This is an opportunity for students to read the nominated books and vote on their favorite. In order to participate in the voting and the celebration... in 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades, students must read 3, 4 or 5 books, respectively, and do a book report on each. The winning author is selected by students. After Spring Break, the author is announced and a celebration is planned. We have all of the titles, and you can also check them out at your local public library or search at Half Price Books. The contest has been traditionally for 3rd grade and up; however this year, there is an expanded contest, to include a Star of the North Award, which is for grades K-2 (see links to titles below). For K-2, the teachers, media specialist, and guest readers will be reading these books to the students, but you can also check them out at your local public library.

Star of the North (grades K-2) www.starofthenorthaward.org

Maud Hart Lovelace (grades 3-5) www.maudhartlovelace.org

Wish List Update for March

Alphabet magnets

Bottle caps

Building blocks

Buttons (big is better)

Cookie Cutters (1" or small)

Cool Whip and Ice Cream Buckets – clean

Corks

Cotton balls

Duct tape

Film canisters

Googly eyes

K'NEX materials

Legos

Low voltage DC motors

Matchbox-type cars

Mayonaise and Peanut Butter containers with lids (washed with label off)

Nuts and bolts

Play-doh

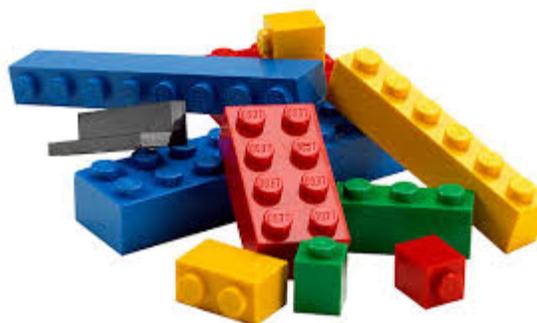
Potting soil

Staple gun

Straws (all sizes)

Tools (screw drivers, pliers, etc.)

Toothbrushes





SEA on Facebook

If you haven't already found us on Facebook, we encourage you to check us out. Search for us at 'SEA School of Engineering and Arts'. You can also get to the Facebook site via the Facebook link found on our main website at sea.rdale.org. On this Facebook site, you'll see daily postings of what is happening at school, upcoming events and activities as well as notifications for cancellations or changes of events.

20% Project lands at SEA

You might have heard your student talking about 20% Projects and wonder what they are referencing. The 20% Project idea is not an original idea to SEA, in fact, it wasn't even started in education. Google started the 20% Project by providing their employees with the opportunity to use 20% of their work time on ideas they wanted to learn more about...almost 50% of Google's products have come from that 20% of time, including gmail!

With one of our goals at SEA including the encouragement of student voice, we thought this to be the perfect project for our students! We started the project with our 4th and 5th grade students to see how it might go and were overwhelmed with how quickly the students grabbed on to the idea and were amazed at their presentations and products created from their 20% Projects. Recently we have been introducing the project to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students and have been equally impressed with our younger students!

The intention of the 20% Project is not for adult assistance, but rather adult guidance as needed. Ideas come straight from the student. We encourage students to take projects to a higher level and assign mentors as needed. For example, some of our 3rd grade students are trying to figure out how to create video games, so a 5th grade student and a parent who is a programmer have been assigned as mentors to these students to help answer questions and provide some foundational knowledge. Another example is for one of our 5th grade students who wanted to learn more about architecture before he delved into creating blueprints and building a model of a self-designed building, so, we have paired him with a local architect who meets with the student weekly as a check in for questions and to build the foundational knowledge.

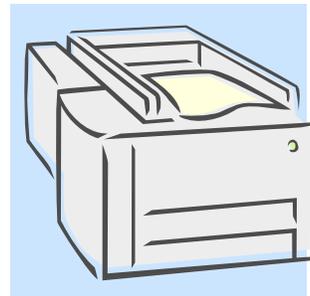
Time will be provided at school during intermittent times for students to work on their projects, but we have found that many of our students love working on them so much they bring the projects to work on at home. Please note that this is not required homework, rather an enhancement/enrichment opportunity for our SEA innovators. Should you have any questions about the 20% Project, please contact your child's teacher or Program Coordinator, Cara Rieckenberg (cara_rieckenberg@rdale.org).

Share your STEAM passion or job at SEA!

Do you have a STEAM-related job or passion? Would you be willing to share how you apply STEAM to real-life situations with students? Would you be interested in being a mentor for students' 20% Projects? If so, follow this link – <http://goo.gl/HFNb2K> to complete a form and when the need arises for a speaker, demonstration or mentor with your knowledge and/or talents, Cara will contact you.

Recycling Inkjet and Toner Cartridges

SEA is collecting inkjet and toner cartridges to recycle for funds to be used for purchasing apps for the SEA iPads! We just recently received \$250 thanks to previously submitted cartridges! These funds help us to get math, reading, writing, science, art and other STEAM focused apps that allow for differentiation in learning for our students. The recent funds will cover about \$2.00 per iPad at SEA, so we are always needing more funds to keep up with the most recent and best practices for app use in instruction. You can very easily help us with this by dropping off cartridges at SEA at the designated location right inside the main entrance. Your place of employment can also help us out by sending cartridges directly to our host recycling program. FundingFactory will send each supporting business free prepaid shipping labels for the return of collected cartridges. To do this, contact FundingFactory directly at 1-888-883-8237 or www.fundingfactory.com Find our school (School of Engineering and Arts) using our ID#314588



Healthy SEA Staff

Did you know that the SEA staff are participating in two health programs? One of the programs is called Way2Go and is actually a grant funded program where participants are encouraged to maintain their weight - SEA staff have set two goals for ourselves: 1) Walk 10,000 steps daily and 2) Eat healthier. The other program is the district initiative Commit to be Fit - for this challenge, SEA staff keep track of exercise and log daily. We compete as a team against all other buildings in the district. Last year we finished in 1st place in a tie with Meadow Lake - this year we're seeking a solo 1st place win! With all these health challenges, you'll be seeing SEA staff in workout clothing every Monday throughout the challenges. Feel free to offer encouraging words.

Math March Madness

SEA is adopting the month of March as Math March Madness! Watch for fun math-focused challenges coming home in Thursday folders. Be sure to check in with your students about the math challenges we'll be doing at SEA. Watch too for pictures and more on our Facebook site and Website.

SEA PTA Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 — Read-A-Thon Fundraiser - Due Date

Thursday, March 6, 2014 — PTA Meeting (6:30pm—8pm)

Tuesday, March 11, 2014— Scholastic Book Fair—Kin Lab (4pm—8pm)

Thursday, March 13, 2014 — Scholastic Book Fair—Kin Lab (4pm—8pm)

Monday, March 17, 2014 — Scholastic Book Fair—Kin Lab (4pm—8pm)

Seeking PTA Members for Nominating Committee

As the end of the school year is fast approaching, it is time to think about the future of the SEA PTA Board. A call for nominations will be going out soon for anyone interested in serving to strengthen our SEA Parent/Teacher community. Prior to seeking nominations, we must form a nominating committee. You must be a PTA Member to be part of the nominating committee. People may join the PTA at any time. If you would like to be a member of nominating committee, please contact Tiffany Hendrickson, Secretary at

hendrickson.tiffany@gmail.com

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon and we will transform part of the Kin Lab into our very own book store. There you will be able to find hundreds of books from new and favorite authors, popular series, cool posters, school supplies and fun for everyone! The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during conferences on March 11th, 13th, and 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

During the Scholastic Book Fair, we will be collecting loose change for the One for Books program. The money collected will be used to build the classroom libraries. Attend the Scholastic Book Fair to be entered into a drawing to win one of 20 fabulous prizes and help your classroom earn \$25 in Scholastic Books just by attending. We can't wait to see you there!

Spring Fling—Raffle (May 16th)

The Spring Fling (Raffle) is just around the corner and planning is underway. If you would be interested in helping with the Spring Fling (Raffle) planning, please contact Stephanie Smith at (612)834-8340.

Currently the Fundraising Committee is seeking donations from the community for the upcoming Spring Fling—Raffle on May 16th. The donations can be in the form of actual merchandise, gift certificates, or services. If you (or you know of anyone who) would like to donate to our event, please contact the Fundraising Committee via email at SEAPTAFundraising@gmail.com or call Stephanie Smith at (612) 834-8340.

Playground Installation (May 17th)

SEA and the City of Golden Valley have designated Saturday, May 17th as the official day to install the new playground equipment at Wildwood Park. We will be asking for volunteers to help install the playground equipment, so please watch your emails and the electronic Thursday folder for more details on how to sign-up through VolunteerSpot.

Seeking a WAY Committee Chair

The PTA is currently seeking a WAY—We Appreciate You Committee Chair to help coordinate staff/teacher meals during conferences (fall/spring), back to school open house (fall), and events during staff/teacher appreciation week for the 2014-2015 school year. If you or someone you know might be interested, send us an email at SEAParentTeacher@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE KINESIOLOGY LAB

We wrapped up our rope jump and climb unit during the first few weeks back from Winter break. Students learned how to jump forward, backward, crisscross, and doubles. They worked very hard on getting better with their rope jumping skills as we work to improve our bilateral coordination. We started our basketball unit during the later weeks of February and the first week of March. Students will learn how to dribble a basketball using their dominant and non-dominant hand. We will also work on shooting a basketball and passing to a partner and determining how to generate more power/force as we shoot the ball from different distances and heights. Our last 2 weeks of March will jungle tag. Topics of discussion will include diurnal and nocturnal animals, predators and prey relationships, and being more conscious of how human actions can affect various animals' habitat.

Sports Night is on Monday, March 3 at Cooper High School gymnasium at 7:00 PM. Students worked hard to be the best rope jumpers and climbers from SEA. The students who had the most jumps in different categories get to compete against other 4th and 5th graders in the district. The 4th and 5th grade students who tried out and made it to SPORTS NIGHT are:

All Around jumper - Jason W., Nikolai K.

30 Second Speed Jump - Hailey S., Isabella G.

Backward Jump - Merhawit A., Grace H.

Crisscross Jump - Suzette DZ, Ella T.

Doubles Jump - Ava B., Isabella T.

Rope Climbers:

Noah S, Carlos O, Cole Z, Adrian R

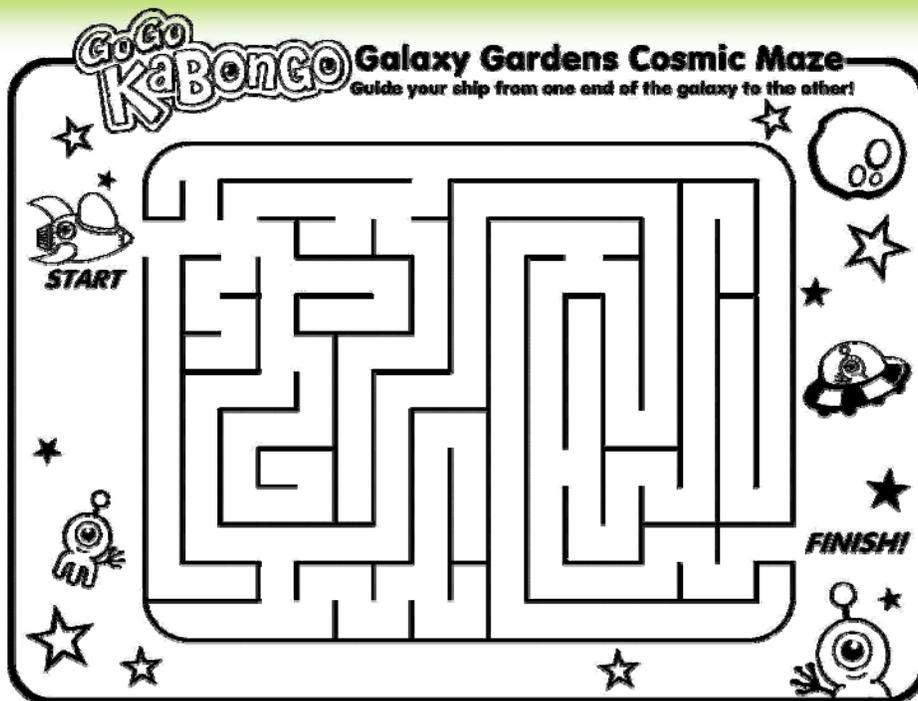
Lindsey B, Wyatt KC, Arnold A, Ryan A

Congratulations to all of our rope jumpers and climbers.

4th Grade Field Trip: The 4th graders will be on a skiing and snowshoeing field trip to Elm Creek Park Reserve on Friday, March, 7th from 10-1 PM (will be back at SEA by 1:30 PM).

Please check my schoology page for the March Fitness Calendar. Thank you.





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